

# *SOUNDINGS*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Detroit District



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*Participants at Great Lakes  
stakeholder meeting point out  
critical needs*

## Commander's Column

# Employees show talent, knowledge and dedication

The last six months seem like a whirlwind of activity, with meetings and trips but as I moved around the entire Detroit District the most impressive thing I have observed is the talent, knowledge and dedication of the district's employees.

From the hydropower plant employees and the lock operators at the Soo, the Fox River crew in Wisconsin, to the floating plant crews, and the Lake Michigan Area Office's work on the Indiana University South Bend pedestrian bridge project, I am regularly impressed and filled with pride. Local government officials and other stakeholders and customers that I meet with routinely compliment your work and request more of it.

As always there is a lot going on across the district and the Corps. We started fiscal year 2007 (and still are) operating under a Continuing Resolution Authority, CRA, rather than a budget passed into law. For many of you this makes your job more complex, more difficult and somewhat unpredictable. I appreciate the fact that the district has risen to this challenge

*(On the Cover)* Eric Reinelt, and Larry Sullivan, stakeholders from the Milwaukee Port Authority talking with Lt. Col. Bill Leady, district commander, about the Five Year Development Planning documents.



**Lt. Col. William Leady**  
Detroit District Commander

Michigan Area Office, the Indiana University officials send great satisfaction and praise for the district's work on this project.

Currently, the Soo Area Office is performing winter maintenance on the Poe Lock. This is the first time the Poe has been de-watered since 2002 and this winter's maintenance and repairs mark the beginning of a dedicated six year effort to recapitalize and modernize the lock system at Sault Ste Marie.

Right after the New Year, Detroit's Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, DPM, and U.S. Army Reserve Colonel, Mike Fulford was called to active duty and is serving a six month assignment with the Defense Contracting Command. During his service Gary O'Keefe has been promoted to the position of DPM.

Also in January the district's

and continues to execute our mission with extremely good results.

In November Indiana University South Bend opened its new pedestrian bridge over the St. Joseph River. Through Carl

Platz, project manager from the Lake

supervisors transitioned to the new National Security Personnel System, NSPS. Implementing NSPS has been quite a bit of effort and both Scott Theime and Maj. Jan Malaikal's efforts should be noted. They are the primary reason the Detroit District successfully made this significant transition.

Finally, I would like to personally acknowledge the contributions of Wanda Carter-Davis, the former Chief of Contracting who retired on 3 January after 33 years of service to the District. Wanda's career exemplifies the best in service to the country. She joined the District at an entry level position and through her talents and efforts rapidly rose to Chief of Contracting. The District and the Corps are deeply indebted to her for her professionalism, the truly countless important contracting actions she made possible and for her friendship.

On that note I would also like to welcome Marilyn Hill, the District's new Chief of Contracting. Hill joins us from Selfridge Air National Guard Base and is a former member of the district team -- welcome back Marilyn!

Many of you do some very dangerous work as part of your regular duties; please take the extra time to ensure you are doing it safely for yourself and those around you.

Thank you all for your work and efforts in accomplishing our mission which is vital to the Great Lakes region.

## SOUNDINGS

**DISTRICT ENGINEER**

Lt. Col. William Leady

**CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

Lynn Duerod

**Special for this issue:**

Pat O'Connor

Valerie Lemons

Monica Miller

Christian Marzan

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# Corps embraces concerns of Great Lakes stakeholders

By Monica Miller  
Louisville District DA Intern  
On Special assignment in Detroit

"At the end of the day, having a quality life means having a quality job."

At the Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop held in Cincinnati on Dec. 7, 2006, Jim Weakley of the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force explained why he believed this meeting was so critical to the Great Lakes region. He attended the meeting to engage in dialogue with the Corps and other stakeholders to strategize on how to communicate the importance of allocating resources to the critical needs of the Great Lakes system.

The workshop was hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. The Division is composed of seven districts, three of which—Buffalo, Chicago, and Detroit—are responsible for maintaining navigable waterways and navigation structures on the Great Lakes.

At the Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop, representatives from port authorities, shippers, industry, and others with a vested interest in Great Lakes navigation participated in discussions about critical needs in the system and how to better develop, prioritize, and communicate those needs.

The meeting participants held a robust dialogue on system priorities, specific project and harbor critical needs, and overall system strategies, with plenty of time allotted to questions and feedback.

According to Michael White, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division director of programs, there were three main reasons for holding the workshop. First, the Corps wanted to hear concerns of the Great Lakes stakeholders so those concerns could be addressed and, second, to demonstrate support for

those concerns. Finally, the Corps wanted to develop a common understanding with the stakeholders about critical project needs in the short term (2007 and 2008) and beyond to 2012.

A key element of the Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop was the Great Lakes Navigation System Five-Year Development Plan. The system needs for fiscal years 2007-2012 are defined very specifically in the plan for each project on the Great Lakes.

Some of the items covered in the development plan include dredging of harbors and navigation channels, construction and operation of confined disposal facilities

to hold dredged sediment, operations and maintenance of locks, and repair of navigation structures.

At the workshop, copies of the plan and project fact sheets were distributed and the stakeholders were asked to review the information. Great Lakes Navigation Business Line Manager Mike O'Bryan said the Corps wants to assure that there is a common understanding with the stakeholders of what the system needs are.

Another important topic discussed at the workshop was funding for Great Lakes navigation priorities. The Corps faces the challenge of constrained funding. Another meet-

ing will be held with the stakeholders in January to discuss budget metrics, which will be used in prioritizing funding.

"(At the January meeting we) will talk about metrics in a performance-based budgeting process that we're in," said White. "We will focus on what the metrics are that we need to use to justify our projects get a priority on funding."

There were roughly 65 stake-



**Roger Bergman with the City of Grand Haven discusses the challenging Great Lakes funding issues with Michael White, division director of programs.**

holders at the meeting. In terms of turnout, the Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop was successful, according to organizers.

The chiefs of operations, Kathy Griffin from Buffalo, Shamel Abou-El-Seoud from Chicago, and Wayne Schloop from the Detroit District served as expert presenters on the critical needs of their respective districts. They agreed there was a lot of positive feedback from the stakeholders and positive interaction among the stakeholders and Corps.

# Petoskey emergency temporary breakwater repair first for Detroit

The Detroit District completed temporary emergency repairs at Petoskey Breakwater on Lake Michigan.

"This type of emergency repair is a first for the Detroit District and we think it will be a model for other projects throughout the Corps," said Wayne Schloop, chief of Operations at the Corps.

The Corps built a "rubble mound," using armor stone, overlapping at least 50 feet either side of the breached section of the existing structure at the Petoskey Breakwater.

"This was a phenomenal effort by the contractor who worked with our staff and crews to get the stone on site in record time," said Lt. Col. William Leady, Detroit District commander.

The contractor, Specification Stone Products, Inc., from Alpena, Mich., was able to acquire, move and provide the large amounts of stone required for this job within 24 hours after getting the request.

The contractor provided almost 3500 tons of large boulders weighing from one to seven tons each, and stock piled the boulders at the harbor in Manitowoc, Wis., where the Corps picked up the boulders and transported them across the lake based on the capacity of the barges carrying the stone and based on the amount needed at the site.

The Corps used its tug RACINE w/ the crane barge MANITOWOC and the Corps' tug KENOSHA in addition to a 1225 ton capacity leased barge to pick up the load of armor stone from Manitowoc, Wis. and cross Lake Michi-

gan to Petoskey, Mich.

Loading the Corps barge and the rental barge with half of the stone went well the first trip across, but the second trip to complete the mission was delayed a few days because of inclement weather.

After waiting for the weather to calm down, the crews eventually headed across the lake to pick up the last load and finished placing the large stones at Petoskey on Oct. 5.

The Petoskey Breakwater was breached completely during a winter storm in February 2006. The breach was approximately 50 feet long and about two feet down into the substructure. There was a little damage done to the substructure, but it was still standing. This emergency fix should hold for a long time to come, but the Corps is seeking funding to repair the entire structure, which is estimated to cost approximately \$2-3 million.



Winter storms battered the Petoskey breakwater for years, eventually causing a breach in 2006.



Crews worked nonstop during breaks in the weather (gusting winds, etc.) to fill the hole in the breakwater with one to seven ton boulders, providing stability to the structure.



# Local harbor of refuge pilot project gets national attention

by Pat O'Connor  
Public Affairs Office

A dedication ceremony for the expansion of Saxon Harbor was held in the fall of 2006 with Representative Dave Obey, D-Wis., Detroit District Commander, Lt. Col. William J. Leady and representatives from the offices of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, Senator Russ Feingold, Iron County, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, DNR, participating to officially open the new harbor basin to boating traffic.

Saxon Harbor is a harbor of refuge for small boats, and functions as a marina for recreational and commercial boating.

The newly expanded harbor nearly doubles the capacity of the prior harbor for recreational and commercial craft, along with providing a harbor of refuge for those who get caught in sudden storms while out on Lake Superior.

The expanded harbor project is also designed to curtail the severe erosion along the shoreline, to correct structural damage resulting from ice conditions, to decrease the height of waves entering the marina area, to reduce flooding, and to reduce personal property and infrastructure damage.

According to local officials, the harbor is vital to the economy of Iron County, and essential for the welfare and safety of all boaters in this region.

Seventy-five percent of the funding for the expansion project came through the Section 154 Program



Aerial view of the new Saxon Harbor shows improvements in the safe harbor, the marina area and the surrounding facilities.

sponsored by Representative Obey and Senator Feingold under the Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2001 and 2005.

Section 154, the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Infrastructure and Resource Protection and Development Program, authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish a pilot program to provide environmental assistance to non-federal interests in northern Wisconsin. Assistance under this

section may be in the form of design, construction and reconstruction work or water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in northern Wisconsin, including projects for navigation and inland harbor improvement and expansion, wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development.

A Project Cooperation Agreement was signed between the federal government and Iron County in August 2005 to complete the design and construction of this project. Iron County designed and constructed the project through contracts and the federal government reimbursed the County for its 75 percent share of the project costs, of more than \$1.6 million.



The Saxon Harbor breakwater provides protection for small boats from storms on Lake Superior.

# Detroit District celebrates the season at h

By Monica Miller  
Louisville District DA Intern  
On Special assignment in Detroit

As the joyful music played at the 2006 Detroit District Holiday Party, the Corps family shared the spirit of the season through fellowship.

At the Detroit Club on Dec. 14, 2006, partakers enjoyed refreshments and lunch before joining in a White Elephant gift exchange.

According to Lt. Col. William Leady, Detroit District commander, the organizers of the event worked hard to pull the party together.

For a few hours, the holiday party transformed the members of the Detroit District from the nose-to-the-grindstone, hard-working employees they usually are to fun-loving, spirit-filled party enthusiasts.

Amondeuz Duerod, from the Detroit Area Office, enjoys a candy cane while opening a gift.



Flo Bissell and Karen Krepps, both roles in making the holiday party a



Nancy Salisbury, from the Detroit Project Office, and Harry Salisbury, from the Programs Mgt. Office, dressed in their holiday finest to celebrate.



Phil Kroll, recently unwrapped a very special gift.



# oliday party



h from the Environmental Branch, played vital  
n success.



Lt. Col. Bill Leady , district commander, delivered a holiday message to the Corps  
team.



ly retired district security officer,  
y well-wrapped gift during the  
" gift exchange.



LaKia Johnson and Edith Brandon, both taking a break from the Contracting Office, took a mo-  
ment from the festivities to pose for the camera.

*Photos by Christian Marzan*



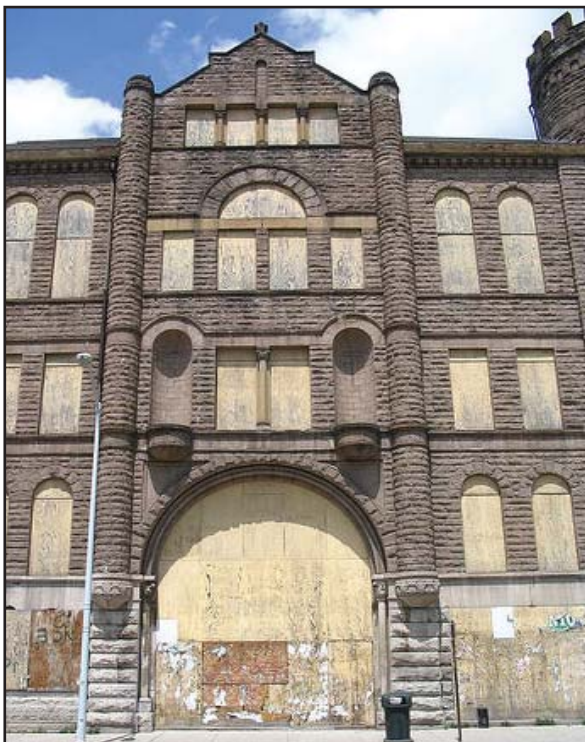
# The Corps and the Castle - a local tale

by Pat O'Connor  
Public Affairs Office

When the Detroit District was considering a move to a new location several years ago, a search for an appropriate home was undertaken. Many employees thought a nearby building would be a perfect location.

A few blocks from the McNamara Federal Building stands a massive castle-like building that bears more than a passing resemblance to the familiar turreted-castle Corps logo.

The Grand Army of the Republic, GAR, Building at the corner of Grand River and Cass formerly housed the organization of that name. The GAR was founded and entirely composed of Civil War



**The GAR Building, which resembles the Corps castle logo, was abandoned in 1973.**

veterans to promote camaraderie, commemorate the Union soldiers' achievements and provide care for veterans and their dependents.

The building, designed by Julius Hess, included 13 shops and a bank on the ground floor, office space on the second and third floors, and a small auditorium on the fourth floor. Construction was completed sometime between 1900 and 1901.

In 1934 the building was given to the City of Detroit, which used it for offices, storage and the GAR Memorial Association, a women's group that met there until 1973, after which the building was effectively abandoned.

Some say the Corps castle logo is styled after the building at the West Point Military Academy, or perhaps after the massive turreted city gate of Verdun, France.

The castle as a logo was first approved for USACE use in 1840 to be worn on the epaulettes and belt plate and was adopted as the Corps official insignia in 1902. The castle

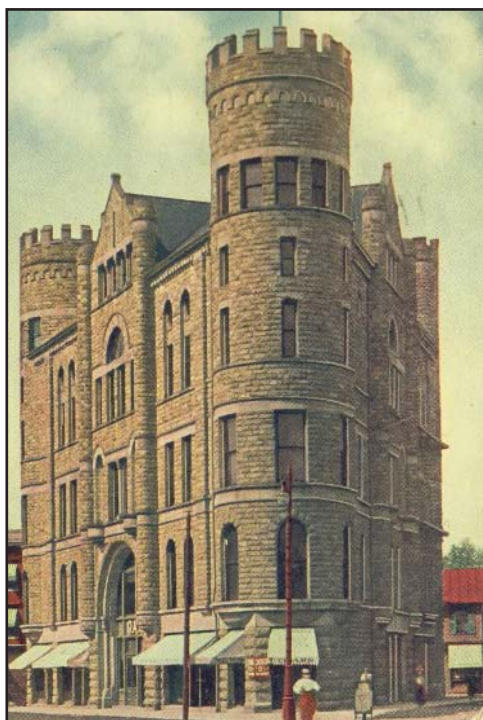
has evolved into two styles that are used today. The traditional castle, in red, white, or gold, is used for decorative and ceremonial use and in applications where traditional heraldry is appropriate.



The signature castle, a more modern design of a white castle on either a red, gray or black background, was created in 1981 to identify the Corps and its Field Operating Activities.

The City of Detroit has at various times tried to find someone to rehabilitate the GAR building. A recent Detroit Free Press article reported that the city has put out a Request for Proposal in hopes of attracting a tenant who would renovate and utilize the space while retaining its historic architecture. The City valued the building at \$220,500 with estimated renovation costs to be no less than \$1.4 million, some of which could be offset by tax credits.

The symbol of the castle is now inextricably linked to the Corps and the nearly-impossible-to-ignore notion of locating the Detroit District headquarters in the "castle" building has from time to time floated in conversations throughout the district.



**A postcard from its glory days shows the GAR building in better condition thriving as a multiuse building.**





Workshop cont' from pg. 3

With Brig. Gen. Bruce Berwick, Great Lakes & Ohio River Division commander, presiding over the proceedings of the work-



**Gen. Berwick speaks to the group about the importance of navigation to the Great Lakes.**

shop and Michael White taking an active role, a higher level of support for the stakeholders was being exhibited. Not only did the stakeholders have the opportunity to share their viewpoints with the districts, but the division also heard their concerns.

According to O'Bryan there was excellent stakeholder attendance both in numbers and types of users with a wide cross-section of interests represented at the workshop.

"Stakeholder feedback overwhelmingly indicated that the program was right on target," said O'Bryan. "We met their expectations by encouraging open dialogue and listening to their concerns and suggestions."

Steve Fisher with the

American Great Lakes Port Association expressed his desire to "institutionalize the process" by having three meetings a year annually so stakeholders' concerns could be voiced. This workshop was the first in a series of meetings scheduled to maintain engagement and build partnerships.

Plans are in place to use the data gathered from the Great Lakes Navigation Stakeholder Workshop to prepare for the future meetings.

"We intend to gain a mutually supported long range vision for infrastructure and dredging improvements on the Great Lakes from a system perspective and stakeholder perspective," said Hiroshi Eto, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Civil Works Programs Integration chief.

The Great Lakes Navigation team expects to receive comments from stakeholders on the Great Lakes Navigation System Five-Year Development Plan and proj-

ect fact sheets distributed at the workshop. A Web Site at [www.lre.usace.army.mil/greatlakes/navigation](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/greatlakes/navigation) and an eMail address at [glnavigation@usace.army.mil](mailto:glnavigation@usace.army.mil) have been developed for stakeholders to submit comments and obtain information on upcoming meetings.

"We hope to continue

this dialogue in the coming days and months," said O'Bryan. "Not just at the formal meetings, but what we want to do is maintain open communication with (the stakeholders) where we really discuss the system needs and make sure we get to a mutual understanding."



**Stakeholders, Corps members, and other invited guests listened to various discussions about the state of navigation on the Great Lakes.**



**Stakeholders and Corps team members kept discussions going after the presentation portion was over.**

# Corps family and community

## Detroit welcomes back adopted (New Orleans) daughter

The journey of Contract Specialist Edith Brandon from her home in New Orleans to Detroit to New Orleans and back to Detroit was

McNamara Federal Building for the Defense Contract Administrative Services Management Agency before joining the Detroit District



Edith Brandon and her son pose for a photo during more joyful times in the house in front of a brass display shelving unit in her living room.

Corps of Engineers in Resource Management in July 1987.

She said that she liked Detroit but missed her family and her hometown. In 1990, the airlines offered to transfer Brandon's husband to

with the U.S. Marine Corps, then later with the U.S. Coast Guard, USCG.

But on Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. They soon learned that their home, the Coast Guard offices, and 80 percent of New Orleans were underwater. The New Orleans airport was closed and the airline transferred her husband back to Detroit.

The Coast Guard evacuated her and the two children, Brittany and Samuel, and eventually relocated them to a hotel near the new location of the USCG temporary office in Alexandria, Louisiana.

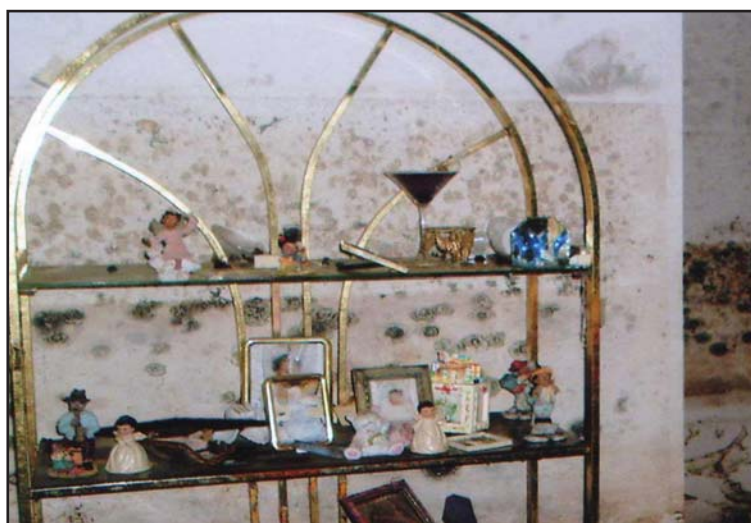
She first visited her home two months after the storm, just a few blocks from Lake Ponchartrain in Orleans Parish. She found a filthy mess. Mold blanketed the sodden walls and ceilings of her brick ranch house. Salt-encrusted furniture and rotted belongings had floated into different rooms.

She said when she first entered

something she couldn't have imagined.

When Brandon left the Resource Management Branch in 1990 to return to her hometown of New Orleans, it began a journey that came full circle when she was rehired by the district Aug. 2006. Like many other New Orleans families that were scattered across the country by Hurricane Katrina, the reunion of her family was complicated by the loss of her home and her children's schools, a battered city and career changes for both her and her husband.

In 1986 she married Samuel Brandon Jr., and moved from New Orleans to Detroit, where her husband worked for an airline company. She worked in the



Same brass display unit, same living room, but it's no longer a joyous place. Hurricane Katrina moved through the area with a vengeance and left behind huge flooding as is evident by the water marks more than five feet up the wall.

New Orleans. She was finally back home in New Orleans with her reunited family. She soon found a job

her house that she cried. The smell was "indescribably bad," she said, and what she calls a deathly silence made it "like you were the only person on earth." In November 2005 they had the interior walls torn out and the house cleared of debris. Nearly one year later the padlocked house sits in the same condition. Brandon and her husband still haven't been told when or if the homeowners on their block will be allowed to rebuild.

The USCG moved back to New Orleans in January 2006, and moved Brandon and her children back to New

See New Orleans next page



and community Corps family and community Corps family and com-

## Corps Regulator creates "Chemo Caps"

by Pat O'Connor  
Public Affairs Office

Years ago, four high school friends could not have anticipated the way they would be sharing their lives today. Mirja Marshall of the Detroit District Regulatory Office and her friends, Bea, Jessie and Jody, graduated from Fern- dale High in 1992. Re- cently all three of Marshall's friends were diagnosed with cancer within the same month.

Upon starting chemother- apy treatment, the friends began to experience the often uncomfortable side effects of chemotherapy such as nausea and weakness, and the most noticeable side effect of the loss of some or all body hair.

Marshall says that the exposed skin on chemotherapy patients' heads can become sensitive and even painful. Between their weak- ened state and increased area of exposed skin it can be hard for chemotherapy patients to keep warm, particularly during the actual treatments, when below-body- temperature intravenous fluids are



Mirja Marshall with a small sample of chemo-caps

being injected.

A skilled seamstress, Marshall started creating "Chemo Caps" for donation to her friends.

"We're all only 32 [years old]," she said. "One friend thought she had a cold and it turns out to be leukemia. It's something I can do for them."

Marshall has gone beyond her immediate circle of friends and has been donating dozens of the caps to local chemotherapy clinics.

"I left some at the front desk in the oncology ward at Beaumont,"

she said, where her friend Jody is being treated, and "lots" to the Karmanos Center in Detroit.

Marshall says the caps have to be both soft and warm. She sews them out of various cotton fabrics or polar fleece, in dozens of dif- ferent fabrics. The caps, many re- versible, range from conservative dark colors to eye-popping prints and fluorescent pinks. To keep from irritating chemotherapy patients' delicate skin the designs have no external seams.

She has been making her caps in three styles; a sort of tie-in- the-back reversible version that looks like a doctor's operating room cap, a "do-rag" style with a rear flap that covers both head and neck for added warmth and a different look, and a stretchy-soft version of a stocking cap.

All her friends continue to receive chemotherapy. Jessie and Jody have responded well to treatment. Bea is now in remis- sion. She is waiting for a bone marrow transplant as soon as the doctors say it's possible and a suitable donor is found. Mar- shall, whose caps are now find- ing their way to women who she will likely never meet, keeps on sewing.

New Orleans cont'

Orleans into yet another hotel. As 2006 progressed Edith said she realized that New Orleans munici- pal facilities were not recovering quickly and returning there wasn't an option. For the good of her children she decided to again leave New Orleans for Detroit and in July 2006 her family was reunited in a spacious apartment in Southfield, Mich. Her son had a bed after nine months of sleeping on hotel room couches and both children attend Southfield Lathrup High School. Brandon says they will eventually

buy a house and she looks forward to owning their own place again.

She says she misses New Orleans -- misses being able to buy fresh seafood like crawfish, shrimp, and speckled trout; she misses Patton's hot sausage (for gumbo), and knowing a city as intimately as she knew her hometown. However, she's grateful for her husband's family who lives all around the Detroit area, where her kids have cousins and aunts and uncles to visit and get to know. And she says that since Hurricane Katrina, her

husband has said he doesn't want to move back to New Orleans.

Brandon visited Detroit every year that she was living in New Orleans and always dropped by the District to visit and stay connected with her former colleagues. She couldn't have known she was visit- ing her future co-workers. She says that her work experience allowed her to qualify for her new position in contracting, and Detroit is once again the place she calls home.

# Corps family and community

## Employee leaps into action at freeway accident; saves a life

by Pat O'Connor  
Public Affairs Office

Marilyn Shaw was in the left lane of the I-94 freeway early on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, on the way to her job in the Administrative Branch of Regulatory Office, when on the road ahead she saw a crushed car that had flipped over in the middle lane. She braked to a halt in the left lane, flipped on her emergency flashers, and jumped out of her vehicle.

Shaw said traffic was getting backed-up and some cars were swerving right to pass on the shoulder to avoid debris scattered by the accident, when she saw a man in the flattened, upside-down car struggling to crawl toward the shattered rear window.

She bent down and reached toward the man's outstretched hands and pulled as he wriggled his way out onto the pavement in the glare of the oncoming traffic headlights. She said she could see that he was bleeding from a large open gash on his forehead. "He was disoriented," she said, "I had to keep him from walking into traffic," which had suddenly become bumper-to-bumper.

Shaw is used to managing crisis situations. She is a single foster-mother of four children who are a handful: three boys, aged 6 years, 3

years, and 8-months old, and a 15-month old girl. So she was used to parenting other people's kids, and she said she made the man sit down

her that that her status as a foster mother could be jeopardized because her car was inadequate for safely transporting four children, she bought a new minivan the next day. She said, "I called my auto man and he hooked me up!"

When Shaw, a part-time Wayne State University student who will receive her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration by summer of 2007, arrived at work after the incident, she said she realized there was blood all over her pants and jacket. So she called her friend who hadn't yet left for work, Dorretta Calhoun-Battles of the Contracting Office. "Dorretta brought me some jeans and a sweater that just

happened to match the shoes I was wearing" she said with a laugh.



Marilyn Shaw, from Regulatory Office, in the office after being the super hero for an accident victim

on the pavement and ordered him to remove his shirt, which she wadded up to use as a bandage. Standing behind him, she leaned his head back against her leg while she applied pressure against his forehead. The man said, "Excuse me, I don't want to die, but you're pressing my head too hard." She held the blood-soaked shirt against his forehead until the EMS crew arrived. "They told me I did a good job; I stopped the bleeding," Shaw said.

Shaw then got back into her brand new minivan and headed off. When the agency that administers the foster-child program recently told

### Detroit team:

You may view extended versions of most Corps family and community articles along with additional photos on the district intranet.

<http://Ire48/default.aspx>



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## Honorary "baller" coach

David Reaume, chief of Business Practices Branch, Resource Management Office, says his daughter Stacey Reaume was selected as the Honorary Coach of the University of Michigan Women's Basketball Team for one game. Stacey coached the U of M game against Ball State University in November 2006. Although the team lost, it was a great coaching opportunity for Stacey who is an instructor for the Women's Studies Program. Stacey was nominated by one of her students, who is also a player on the team.

## Retiree Notes

A note from Esther,

We're just some very proud grandparents "bragging" about the accomplishments of our oldest grandson, Jason Miller, who is celebrating his 25th birthday today. The completion of his training on the F-16 Fighter Jet took place January 20, at Luke AFB, Arizona. My daughter Susan's whole family flew there for this important event (Sue & Cliff are very proud too!). In May of this year Jason will be stationed at the US Air Force base in Japan. His tour of duty there will last approximately 3 years.

Photo is of Jason in the F-16;

Hope the pictures come through.

Herb & Esther Moses



# American Indian national convention held in Detroit

The Detroit District hosted the Corps' booth at the 28th annual National Conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, AISES, this past winter.

The Convention, held at Detroit's Cobo Convention Center, "Generations of Innovation" was attended by thousands of members from across the country.

This national conference is a forum where students, professionals, and sponsors celebrate the innovations that have made the members of AISES stand out as successes in science and engineering within the Native American community, according to organizers.

Throughout the three day event attendees participated in presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities.

Set-up as one of the many exhibitors, the Corps members participated in the career fair and networking sessions. Corps team members from headquarters, the division and various districts including Detroit came out to staff the booth and provide information on Corps jobs, internships, and contracting related opportunities.

**Karen Krepps, tribal liaison for the Detroit District, shares her expertise with convention participants about Corps initiatives and programs in the tribal community.**



(Above) Marty Goff, visiting from New York District came to express his enthusiasm for the Corps Native American programs as other Corps employees look on. (Right) Richard Zaragoza all the way from Albuquerque District talks about the benefits of working with the Corps at the AISES national convention.





# Water levels, dredging, sea serpents, oh my!



Who's taller, me or Seamoor?  
No really, I'm taller, right?

The Detroit District participated this year in yet another successful Detroit Boat Show. The Corps De-



Seamoor is enjoying all the attention he's getting at the boat show, especially by the ladies from a local radio station

troit District team members ran the largest booth in the "Kids Clinic," and welcomed youngsters to the

booth with enthusiasm.

The Corps exhibit at the 49th Annual Detroit Boat Show, held in the Cobo Center recently, introduced the well-traveled, purple and green, sea serpent "Seamoor Safety" to the Detroit crowd.

Seamoor, a water safety marketing tool from the

Corps National Water Safety program proved to be the most popular feature at the booth.

Other booth materials were also a big hit with the people attending this year's event. Volunteers from offices throughout the district distributed a great deal of water safety material, activity books, Corps brochures, and pamphlets. But, one big draw to the booth, as with every year, was the state of the lake levels. Corps participants showed visitors the lake level long term average chart, talked about lake levels, distributed monthly bulletins, and regulatory permit applications.



Maj. Jan Malaikal welcomes a young family to the Corps booth at the 49th Annual Detroit Boat Show

## Congratulations Employees of the Quarter 2006

### Second Quarter

**Joe Pintal** an engineer at the Soo Area Office is commended for his work in the Shops, Yards and Mechanical Section. He was instrumental in completing several scopes of work for Poe Lock Gate cylinder refurbishment, MacArthur Lock gate clutches, and boom pumps. He has worked closely with the Safety Office and the work crews at the Soo to obtain needed fall protection equipment for upcoming roofing and winter work projects. Joe is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that the products we are getting will do the best job.



**Simone Brantley** is recognized for her outstanding customer service and teamwork skills. Simone has taken on many additional duties since post-RIF, and has patiently learned those various duties and skills. Simone is the key travel resource in ETS. She assisted many of our deployed staff with their travel orders and vouchers following hurricane relief duty. These vouchers are complex and time-consuming. Simone's willingness to take on these extra duties was a big help to many deployed staff. In the post-RIF organization, Simone also took on PCS processing duties. This is a very important process for those staff who are relocating. She has an excellent work ethic and a great attitude.



**Henri Ware**, from the Soo Area Office, was instrumental in getting hydro generator 1 back online due to faulty electrical equipment and in performing preventative maintenance on generators 2 & 3. He has also performed flawlessly in assisting with the Mac Lock Stiffleg overhaul. Henri was a vital team member in making the emergency repair to hydro generator 1 when it was offline for 12 days due to an electrical fault. He successfully teamed with testing personnel from Nashville District in making repairs. He continued on to help identify and correct the same problem on generators 2 & 3. His pro-activeness avoided the downtime and damage that units 2 and 3 would have experienced if this fault continued undetected.



### Third Quarter

**Brian Bouwhuis** has helped out with the Grand Haven Area Office purchasing and bill paying while the purchasing agent was deployed. He ensured that the Crane Barge Manitowoc had adequate supplies and materials to make repairs on navigation structures at Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Charlevoix Harbors. His work resulted in keeping the plant working efficiently and in completing the work without delays, very critical due to the tight schedule of the Manitowoc. He did this while continuing his duties as a project engineer on the Ott/Story/Cordova water treatment facility operation contract. He also assisted the area office in the administration of the dredging program during a period that staffing levels have been at their lowest.



**Patty Jeske** is always courteous, willing to step in and help the Management Support Office without being asked. She provides excellent customer service, especially during the last three months of the fiscal year. Patty worked diligently with Millington Finance Center, Federal Occupational Health, and Ron Barkley in verifying invoices that were received for physicals done throughout the year. In her thoroughness, she managed to catch names of people listed on the invoice who weren't our employees, and as a result the district saved money by not having to pay erroneous bills. Due to fewer people being assigned to MSO, Patty is also now managing the district's GSA vehicles. She created an excellent spreadsheet to coordinate and track when the vehicles need maintenance, when they need replacement, and to verify and pay the monthly trip tickets.



**Elizabeth Newell** has contributed a significant amount of effort and perseverance to complete various tasks associated with the recent 2006 Quality Assurance Audit. Her exceptional coordination and teamwork skills with District and Field office staff was required to prepare responses to the Division QAA findings on the District's Construction Management program. Due to the recent reduction in force, much institutional knowledge has been lost and old processes and procedures required updating, which Lizz completed in a professional and high quality manner. Her efforts will ensure that the Construction Management program in the District will meet all the necessary requirements of the Corps and our partners, be more efficient, and enable the District to provide exceptional construction projects to our sponsors and stakeholders.

